Ailechs

by JackGA

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Summary: (This is a story slightly based on Twilight) Kathleen is a

sixteen years old girl that moves to a new town and meets a

mysterious man named Gregory. She will discover that in the shadows of Brock Town there are dark creatures that are both fascinating and deathly; the Ailechs.

1. Welcome Home

(This is a story slightly based on Twilight) Kathleen is a sixteen years old girl that moved to Brock Town, an imaginary city in Canada. Soon Kath will realize that there's something wrong in the house; voices, strange noises and shadows hunt her while she is alone, and everything is related to a mysterious man named Gregory. She will discover that in the shadows of Brock Town there are dark creatures that are both fascinating and deathly; the Ailechs.

This chapter will be the introduction of the main character Kathleen. I hope you Guys Like it and please let me know what you thinkâ \in | So, let's get started.

- **Chapter One**
- **Welcome homeâ€|**
- -It must be late there isn´t it? I asked with a grin and rolling eyes. -Amm… not so much. Said Cayla with her soft voice and I could imagine her giving me the so typical "big sister" smile.
- -I'm freezing. I said to them by the phone. -But you said that the day was hot didn´t you? Asked Sara a little distracted. The best friend of my sister had become like a sister to us. She had been in the family since she was three years old and when her parents died when she was 18, my family had become hers practically. I love her like a sister and even called her that.

We had just moved to Canada, to the city of Brock Town. My parents had the crazy idea of moving to one of the coldest cities I had ever been, becauseâ€|? I don´t know... Maybe they finally lost their minds.

-All of this was the consequence of Dad and one of his crazy ideas of putting one of his businesses in this city. He had his own Communications Company and he decided to put the main office of Canada right here, in the small town of Brock Town. He said this would give the town an important source of employment and income.

But why, oh why, does he had to choose a town unknown by all that can be called civilization? And why it had to be so far away from home? Well I didn´t have another option but to look at it as a fresh start.

- -Well yes but the temperature here at the house is so much lower than outside. Is like living in a refrigerator, I said with a sigh. I just wanted something to be distracted with, and right now, complaining about the temperature seemed… the very best option.
- I looked at myself in the mirror and watched my light brown, wavy hair. My eyes were brown but some times in the sunlight they shined with a greenish and golden color. I had freckles all over my white cheeks. I had delicate features and a well-defined jaw.
- -Aw Sweetie you´ll be all right. Maybe is not that bad. Said Cayla with a soft voice. â€" Yeah, you will meet new people, and sooner than you think you will completely forget about us, Sara said with a laugh.
- -Believe me, is not gonna happen. I said while I was hanging my clothes in my new closet. My room was perfect. It had this wine color in the walls, which I loved and the lights were warm and yellowish. The closet was huge and old fashion, made of oak-tree. I put candles all around the room and found myself really happy with the result.
- -Oh wish I could be at the university with you guys! I said after a while as I rolled my eyes. I missed them so much and I felt as if, somehow, things would change dramatically between us. They were really important to me and now, they were practically out of my life. I sat down on my bed and then laid as I grimaced. You are 16 years old. You will have your time Kathie, I promise. Said Cayla with her typical "big sister" tone.
- -Well IÂ'm actually 17 already. My birthday is near remember? I got up and sat on the bed as I looked around. Everything looked perfect but at the same time so cold to me, as if I was trying to pretend I belonged in that cold and strange place. -You will have your time Kathleen. Said Cayla again. As always, she was right, but it didn't mean it stopped from hurting.
- -I know. I said biting my lower lip. â€"Is just that I wish I could be in L.A. with you girls. I miss you and everything here is new; frankly it's a little intimidating.
- -Enough of sad thing. Started Cayla with quivering voice, but trying to lighten our mood. â€"How are Mom and Dad? -Well… I started to

say while I got up the bed and started to take my books out of their boxes. â€"They are in the office, preparing everything for the new company. I'm so glad to see them happy, they are very excited about everything. Mom is especially delighted with the house, it's huge. Mr. Browton was very kind to inherit it to Dad. I said as I put my books in the bookseller.

- -I will love to see it when we get there, Sara studied history and everything that was antic was a complete delight to her. $\hat{a} \in Will$ be there for Christmas, said Cayla. She was studying to be a neurosurgeon, so vacations where like finding oil in your property for her.
- -I´m so glad Cayla. It will be so much fun! I got out of my room to the corridor where the cabinet was. I took a blanket out of it and closed the door. -Hey girls I have many things to unpack. I´ll call you later, okay? I looked at the pile of boxes out of my room. There were books, clothes, ornaments, bathroom stuff and thousands and thousands of things that I didn´t have the slightest idea of where I could put them.
- -Of course sweetie. Call us tomorrow alright? We love you! And please take care. Both said in a chore as I hang up the phone. Comparing to Los Angeles this was going to be a refrigerator in the Artic.
- I went to the door of my room and took a box, but suddenly the door of the cabinet opened slowly, making the door creaked. The sound gave me chills as I turned around and saw nothing but the cabinet door open.
- "I swear I closed that door" I said to myself. "Never mind" I conclude as I put the box in the floor and closed the cabinet door once again and put on the little lock in it this time.
- I continued unpacking all of my stuff. It was late so I decided to take a snack. The house was big so my Mom hired a woman to clean it and keep me company some times. She worked for Mr. Browton before he died and she was a trustful woman.

She was going to come three day a week; Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Her name was Della Edenberg. She was a nice local woman, her eyes were blue and her hair black with some grey hairs. She was a little†plump.

- -Hi Della. I said while I opened the refrigerator and took some bread to make a sandwich. -Hi Kathleen. How's the unpacking going? She asked while she was cleaning the stove persistently.
- -I almost finish thanks God! I put my bread in the toaster and got out the peanut butter. After the bread was ready I made my sandwich and devour it quickly $\hat{a} \in So\hat{a} \in I$ started with my mouth full. $\hat{a} \in Tell$ me some stories about the town Della. I said before giving a big bite to my snack again.

She looked at me with a smile and then her expression turned more serious. -Well what kind of stories do you want to hear dear? Said the lady with a soft voice and putting a smile on her face again.

-Mmmâ€| well aboutâ€| this house. It was the first thing that came to

my mind. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ It´s obviously an old house. What is the story? I looked around amazed by the size of it. She seemed uncomfortable with my question, and I could not tell why. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ Oh come on Della. I´m sure you know, tell me. I said more curious because of her reaction.

-Wellâ \in | It seems that she was struggling between telling me and keeping a secret. â \in " It was built by a British family called the Browtons. They were very rich merchandisers in the middle of the 1800Â's. Andâ \in | amâ \in | well the house passed from father to son and gradually passed to John Browton, who recently passed away as you know. He decided to leave this house to his closest friend Garnet Galler, your father. Della was passing her flannel cloth over and over the same spot of the kitchen table in a nervous motion.

-Yes, he was very generous to do that. How was he? I asked more curious. -Well he was a very agreeable man, he was very good looking. Well thatÂ's a family heritage. Della laughed and looked around, as if she was sharing a joke with someone that wasn't me. -But he was also a mysterious man. He had a huge burden under his shoulders, kept so many secrets and knew so much. Her eyes were lost in time, remembering John Browton.

- IÂ'm really sorry Mrs. Edenberg. I said it sincerely as I took her hand and tightened softly. She smiled at me and caressed my cheek with a soft and sweet move.

â€"Thanks dear. You are a really good girl Kathleen. She smiled, making her cheeks redder and her eyes looked like two blue and small lines. -Call me Kath. I said with a smile. â€"Thanks for the story Della. It has been nice talking with you. IÂ'm going to take a nap, after all that un-packing and the cleaning I feel as if a piano had fallen on top of my head. Which reminded me of something I wanted to ask her. â€"Della, why my room is the only one that you never cleaned up? I mean when I first look at it, it seemed that there had been ages before someone had stepped in there.

Della looked around nervously but gave me a warm smile. - It was forbidden dear. No one could enter that room, before you got into this house. She gave me a forced smile â€"Family, traditions.

I looked at her with a frown, that as a very weird "tradition" and frankly it gave me chills to think what could have happened there to not let anyone even cleaned it before we arrived.

-Go ahead dear, I have some work to do. I will call you when itÂ's time to take dinner, she said getting into her flannel cloth and the kitchen table again, giving an end to our conversation.

I went up the stairs to the third floor were my room was. It was the only one in that floor of the house, so it was great to have more privacy.

As soon as my head touched the pillow I got deeply asleep. I didn´t dreamed about anything, it was just one of does sleeps that you are so tired, your mind can´t even afford to dream.

I woke up and the rain was hitting the window. It was already dark and I could felt the cold trespassing my bones. The temperature in this house was really low. I was laying in bed, just resting and

refusing to stand up. I hear a move near me, like the breathing of someone. I opened my eyes freaked out and I saw it. There was someone standing in the corner of my room. It was tall and threatening. A shadow that exhaled so much power that it left me petrified. I could not scream; every inch of my body was frozen with fear.

There was a stranger in my room, looking me while I slept! The seconds passed and it seemed that the figure was examining me, just standing there without moving a muscle. I just opened my eyes as plates and held my breath.

Suddenly a lightening crossed the room and the figured just disappeared in front of my eyes, like if the light had vanished it from earth. I jumped out of bed in a second and turned on the lights with my heart betting really fast. There was no one but me; absolutely no one. I blinked several times to bring my thoughts together. But it was there, I wasnÂ't dreaming, it was there as clearly and real as my own hands.

-Kath dinner is served Dear! Your parents have just arrived. Della said to me at the foot of the stairs. -Coming! I answered absently and surprise I could even speak. I went to the corner where I saw the figure and touched the wall. It was completely normal, just wall, nothing else.

"My God I´m crazy" I thought. I should be if I saw the figure of a man standing there looking at me. It was complete nonsense. I went down the stairs with the face as pale as the snow.

I had dinner and tried not to talk too much. I wasn't crazy, was I? I could tell my parents but what would I tell them exactly? I had no idea, so I decided to keep my mouth shut.

We ended up dinner and I tried to forget about it all, after all I was going to sleep alone in there, so I better be brave. I put on my pajama and prepared to go to bed. I brushed my teeth, removed my make-up, and went straight to bed.

I played my iPod and when I was starting to get asleep I turned it off and fell exhausted into Morpheus arms, I did everything I could to keep me distracted and it really worked.

The next day I woke up and my parents were already gone. I got ready, took my purse, wallet, cellphone and iPod and went right out. It was a beautiful Sunday morning. The weather was quite agreeable and everything was perfect. The town was beautiful but very little, still it was nice and welcoming.

I went walking through the streets and spent as much time away from home as I could. But when I visited all the bookstores, coffee shops and shops in general I had to make my way back home.

I returned reluctantly and went to my room to organize some new books I bought in the downtown for my personal library. The house hand an immense library in the first floor but I always enjoyed having several books at hand. When I was putting them in place I stepped on a timber of the floor that creaked, as if it was hollow. I stopped and look down confused. I bent down and palpate that section of the floor with a frown.

I took the piece of wood with my fingers and started to remove it, I took my time but at last the wood gave in and I found there was a hole where there should be solid floor. A smell of humidity and mold hit me while I looked inside the strange compartment. It was really dark and it took me a time to adjust to the darkness, then I saw deep down there was a box wrapped in old velvet. It smelled like rotten wood, mud and mold. I took out the box and put it with delicacy on the floor completely surprised and curious for my new discovery.

I sat down and started to uncover it. It was made of wood and had the top of it covered with beautiful designs and jewelry, but time and bad conditions had deteriorated it a lot.

It kind of reminded me of Pandora´s box, and after what I thought I saw last night, this was not a very encouraging discovery. Slowly I slide the lock out, as if I feared all demons where to get on the loose because of it. I opened it with quivering hands and with all the delicacy I was able to. I looked inside and there were many papers†rather letters. All of them with different dates.

-7th of July 1870, 21 of July 1945, 5th of September of 1999â€|I read out loud. Below the letters was, what seems to be a photo and a ring; the ring was beautiful. It was big but had an incredible elegance that attracted the most. Beautiful silver taxed were around a central white stone that was like snow. I put it on and it fixed me perfectly.

-It´s so beautiful, I said to myself while I examined it on my hands. Suddenly I heard a whisper of voices at my back. They were like thousands of voices whispering at me at the same time and I could not figure out anything they were saying. I jumped up scared as never before as I was completely alone, when all of a sudden all the voices shut up.

There was nobody in the entire house and yet I heard as if thousands of people had been beside me. I started to get really scared, something was wrong here and I could not deny it anymore. My heart was pounding strongly against my chest.

There were two options: one, was that I was getting completely crazy, and the second, something really weird was happening in that house. I looked at the photo that was still in my hands upside down. I turned and looked at it. It was the photo of a young man. It was black and white but I could imagine that his eyes were blue or green. His features were reluctant and his jaw and cheekbones were well defined. His hair was short and fall into his face softly. He looked at the camera with a twisted smile. In one word he was handsome, but still a stranger.

"This photo has to be from a very long time ago, like the ring and the box. But, what the hell was this stuff doing below my room?" I asked to myself silently and completely scared by all of this.

My phone started to ring loudly and it scared the hell out of me, I took a deep breath and went to get it out of my purse. The name of Cayla appeared in the screen and I didn't answer because I was in such a state of shock I could not even speak.

I put the wood box again in my hands and looked at the letters inside as I laid in my bed confused.

"The Browtons" I thought. This guy must have been involved with that family or perhaps been one of them. I looked at the letters that where in the box and took out the first one of them. I took it out of the envelope, but more than a letter it was a note:

- **October 26 of 1859**
- **Brock Town**
- **My god friend:**
- **Gregory, forgive me for this quick and insipid note. Everything is set and ready for your departure to London. Be prepared and tell Lucy that I send her all my regards and good wishes. I will join you as soon as I can.**
- **Your loyal friend: **
- **Lucius Featon.**

Maybe the mysterious man was Lucius, or Gregory. Do they were Browtons? What was apparently true was that this Gregory wanted to depart to London or rather run away from Brock Town, and took this Lucy with him.

I wanted to know more, so I took another letter from the box, but when I was about to open it the lights went off. It was already dark outside so I was left completely blind and in the middle of the dark. I got up the bed to the window when suddenly the door of the room opened and it creaked. I started to tremble as I turned to see nobody standing there, but I could feel someone was staring at me from somewhere in the room. The feeling was awful because I knew I was all alone and if anything happened to me, I could not even cry for help.

All was silent and I could feel the tension growing exponentially by the minute. I felt as if someone was at my back. I started to breath heavily and felt that my hands started to sweat. There was definitely "something" in here and it was close to me. I was trembling when, in my nape, I felt as if someone took a deep breath. I felt this presence so near, as if it was almost touching my back. That got me out my nerve, and it was too much for me to handle.

I turned around to face the threat but there was absolutely anything between me and the window. The door cracked again and I kept the feeling someone was watching me. That was when I turned to one corner of the room and saw it again. There was a dark silhouette of a huge man facing me. I felt my blood left my face as he was less than five feet away from me. He was dangerous and I was all alone.

As if someone had slapped me in the face I reacted and had a moment of lucidity. I ran toward my night table and took my car keys as I got out of my room as fast as I could and I went down stairs blindly, hitting everything in my path as I made my way to the front door and went out to the garden.

I ran towards my car and got in as scared as I had never been before. I looked up to the window of my room and I could see two shadows from the inside, one was apparently looking at me and the other one was

giving me the back. Both looked like figures of men but where completely dark, just as if they were made out of dark smoke. They looked threatening and surely not human. The one staring at me gave me chills and made me want to cry out of pure terror. It was inspecting me, and I felt it looked at me with intensity, even doe they were no eyes in that dark figure.

The light came back and the shadows disappeared as quickly as my room got lit. I was left literally shaking inside the car. The tears of fear and panic came to me and I could no longer pretend that nothing was wrong. This things where real and where happening to me. I stood out of the car and outside the house, looking toward my window, waiting to see those things again, but nothing else happen. My knees where trembling like jelly and I couldn´t breathe. I was scared to get into my own room alone again and I never felt more alone in my life than in that moment.

I didn´t care what they were, I just wanted to be left alone. How could this be possible? This things where just meant for books or old stories. I couldn't tell my parents until they experienced it in person, otherwise they would not believe me. But how was that going to happen if they were never at home, or at least they would not be at this hour because of the office.

Perhaps Mrs. Edenberg knew something she was not telling me. Maybe that was the reason she was so nervous when I asked her about the house. This could not be a new thing to her. Or it just happened in my room? Maybe that was the reason why the room was locked all those years before we got here.

I heard a noise coming from the woods and found myself between two threats. The house or the woods. I wanted to call Mom and ask her that we leave this place immediately! But I knew she would not believe me and I would only worry her and Dad. Slowly and completely against my will I got into the house again. I got to the porch and took a deep breath as I slowly opened the door and started to get upstairs to the third floor. My heart was beating so loud I could feel it in my throat.

The door of my room was shut and I just saw the door frame illuminated. I took courage and very, very, slowly opened the door. My room was lit and no one was there. I looked at my bed and the letters where gone; the picture and the box where still there but the letters disappeared. I got to the bed and search for them with despair. Not even one was left.

This couldn't be happening to me. I was just a normal teenager that could definitely not deal with some strange presence in the house all alone. What the hell was I supposed to do? And how could I fight something I could not even see?

2. New Day

Here is chapter two, Ii hope you like it. I apologize for any grammar mistake. So… let's meet Gregory… :)

^{**}Chapter Two**

^{**}New Day**

Moments later I heard the car of my parents at the entrance of the house. I was in a permanent state of shock, but I had to deal with it. I wanted to tell my parents that we should leave the house immediately before it was too late, but how could I tell them that a strange presence was in there? I had not spent even three days in the Browton's house and I had already been convinced that something out of the ordinary was happening in there.

- But I knew that if I said something they would only worry about my mental health, instead of really believe in me. "Things will get better tomorrow, they have to" I said to myself in a lame attempt to calm down. "You are going to spend time at school and you can be out most of the day" I cheered myself up.
- -Oh there you are sweetie. Oh, the day was really hard. Marissa put her purse in the rack that was beside the door and kissed me in the cheek sweetly. -Hi Mom, why it was so hard? I asked with a not very convincing smile as I felt that, at any moment those strange shadows would appear again.
- -So much paperwork to do. And the man who was supposed to be at the office at 5:00 p.m. to deliver important documents that your father needs to close a huge deal, was almost an hour late! $\hat{a} \in |$ She started to talk and did not stop. I almost make a sigh of relief as I listen at her cadence of words. They happened to many weird things in a day for me to make a casual conversation with my Mom.
- I had to figure out what was happening in order to understand those strange events, and definitely the ring, the photo and the letters had something to do with it, and it seemed the missing letters where the most important parts of this riddle.
- -Honey? Called my mother worried as her beautiful face frowned at me. $-I\hat{A}$ 'm sorry mom. You were saying? I said with a forced smile as I got out of my ruminations.
- -Oh Kathleen, I am worried I´m not paying you enough attention. I feel like a really bad mother because I leave you here all alone. I´m not here for you baby, and that make me feel bad as a mother. She hugged me tightly and kissed my head.
- -Mom you are not a bad mother. IÂ'll be fine, I can take care of myself. You know me and itÂ's not like IÂ'm going to make huge parties when you are not at home. IÂ'm responsible, you know that.
- I hugged her back and kissed her cheek. She loved her work, and she and Dad had been missing a lot of my life as the Galler Communication Company grew. I knew they loved Cayla, Sara and me, but I knew perfectly well that the company was a priority, and that hurt me.
- -I know. My girls are very special girls. You know I love you, don´t you? She asked with her childish smile. -I know it Mom. And I love you too. I said with a forced smile and tried to easy her distress. Her fears made clear to me that I could not tell them what was going on, they would only feel guiltier for my "hallucinations".

We took dinner and after a long chat I had to say good night and against every fiber of my being I had to go to my own room. Tomorrow was going to be a hard day so I had to be prepared for it. I went to

my room and stood at the frame of the door with my knees trembling as jelly.

-Just live me alone. My heart was beating strongly against my chest as I looked around the dark room, suddenly it didn't looked as perfect as I once thought it was.

I woke up really early for school and fortunately I slept well and without any disturbance of "ghost" kind. I opened my eyes inspecting the room suddenly wide awake, it was empty. "An amazing wake up" I rolled my eyes and got prepared for school. I put on a brown blouse, my favorite jeans, converse and a black jacket. I put on my makeup and left my hair down. I took my backpack and I was about to go down when I saw the white ring in the little bureau that was beside my bed. I took it off when I went to sleep last night, in a physical attempt to get rid of all that was going on the in Browton house.

I don´t know why but I felt the instinct to put it on, as I grimaced I went towards it and put it in my index finger with a rude movement. It was beautiful and fit me perfectly which actually was a weird thing, because my fingers were very thin.

-Come on Kath. I donÂ't want you to get late in your first day at school! Marissa shouted from downstairs, were her and Garnet's room was. -Coming mom! I closed the door relived to get away from there and got downstairs as fast as I could.

-Good morning sunshine, said Mrs. Edenberg with a white smile. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ I prepared you something before you go and also pack you some cookies for lunch time. Could this woman be any cuter?

-Oh Thanks Della! YouÂ're very kind. I put the cookies in my backpack and took breakfast with my parents. As I looked forwards to ask her what the hell was going on here. -Are you sure you know the way to school? Asked Garnet with an eyebrow up and inspecting if I had everything I needed for my first day at the Brock Town School.

-Completely sure Dad, I said rolling my eyes. â€" Do not worry about me, okay? IÂ'll be just fine. I said as I took a huge bite of bacon.
-Just be careful with the van. If anything happens to it, it will be your responsibility young lady. He took a gulp of his coffee and stood up.

-Don't worry Dad, I know you value your belongings deeply. I said with a smile and feeling hurt once again for his demonstration of priorities. He clenched his jaw and just saw me as I made my way outside the house. He and I had a difficult relationship.

I went out and get into my red Traverse. I started the engine and it was like music to my ears. I would get away from all of my problems for most of the day. I smiled and with a clear head started my way to school. The house was at the outsides of the city so the forest was part of my way to school. The constant flow of trees passing by relaxed me and made me took a deep breath from the first time in days.

I connected my iPod and listen to my playlist trying to get those strange figures out of my head. I made 20 minutes from my home to the school. "No strange appearances today, or at least for half of the

day" I thought with a smile and feeling relieved and worried at the same time. I never thought that being in the school would give me such a peace of mind.

I parked my van and went towards the massive building. Many teenagers were outside talking with each other's. The day was cloudy and a little cold. I didn't know anyone but I was prepared for this. I took one of my books and sat in one of the benches that were outside. I started to read and got lost in the pages trying not to think about anything but Hannibal Barca and his many conquest in Italy. When I was going to finish the page twenty one when the bell rang and I realized it was time to get inside.

I pick up my book and school bag as I went to the entrance of the building. Everyone was doing the same thing and where simply ignoring me as they all get into the entrance like a herd of cattle. I was about to get to the stairs of the main entrance when I looked towards my right. In one of the benches were two guys seating face to face. One was giving me the back and the other looked at me with a frown. His eyes were blue and his hair was really black, his skin was white and perfect. His features were the ones of a really handsome man.

He looked like in his middle twenties and seemed a little bit weird because he looked old but really young at the same time. His complexion was athletic even when he was seating casually. When he saw me he punched lightly the other guy's arm. He turned towards me and when he did I was left completely in shock.

His eyes were green and his hair was light brown. He was muscular and really tall. His jaw was well defined and his nose was straight but at the same time sharp and masculine. He was exactly the same man that was in the picture I found in my room yesterday!

He was dressed with a dark blue shirt, a black leather jacket and jeans. He looked at me and he had a very intimidating stare. I felt as if he could see through me with just a quick look. Even from this distance I could tell he was really dangerous. Both men were looking at me seriously and making me really uncomfortable.

A girl hit me while I was standing there, stupidly staring at the exact image of a man that should be death for more than a hundred years now. â€"Sorry. She said with a shy smile and helped me pick up my bag, which felt into the floor because of my sudden state of panic.

I smiled back more for politeness than anything else. I told her that it was fine and when I turned towards the two men they were gone. Just as if they were products of my imagination. I looked around and they had just vanished. This could not be happening to me, I mean maybe the problem was indeed in my head. I felt I needed to take a seat as I felt dizzy.

-Kathleen Galler, his voice was deep and it gave me chills. Even my name sound strange to me in his lips. I turned and the guy of the picture was in front of me. Beside me was the other man, the black haired one. Both of them were tall, athletic and really, really handsome. But something was not right with this guys, they expelled power from their skin and my whole body screamed at me to run away.

-How†how do you know my name? I asked with a whisper as I got as pale as if I was dead. I could hear my heart beat clearly in my ears as if it was a hammer hitting against my chest.

I stared at them with my eyes opened widely and feeling as if my blood was leaving my body. - We need to talk, I'll explain everything latter. We'll be waiting for you outside your last class. I looked at him and realized his emerald eyes where almost of an impossible color. He looked at me serious and cold, and yet I could see something else hidden in those really old eyes. -How do you know in which class IÂ'll be? Why I should trust you? I donÂ't even know if you both are real… maybe I am talking like an idiot here all to myself! When I said that I turned in all directions to see if someone was looking at me as if I was crazy, but nobody payed me the slightest attention, so I relaxed a little.

- -We are completely real. Said the other guy with a dashing smile. â€"DonÂ't be afraid, his soft voice calmed me and he seemed even friendly. He was as dangerous as the green eyed man but this one looked kinder, much more relaxed.
- -Just try to stay calm and when the time comes we will meet you, you don't know what you got yourself into. The picture man said with a harsh expression and I could see anger in the way he clenched his jaw. He looked around as if he was prepared to shoot someone that dared to get close enough to us. Would he? Did he had a gun? I inspected him and he seemed unarmed, but that didn't put my mind on ease.
- -What do you mean? What I got myself into? I had hundreds of questions. Who were them? How was I involved in all of this? Where they the creatures that where in my room last night?
- -Just stay calmed Kathleen. We are going to explained everything, just relax and enjoy your first day of school, and I promise we are not going to cause you any harm.
- -You can't guarantee her that Lucius. The man of the picture looked at the other guy with a hard stared and completely serious. I felt even worse! They were threatening me? I was left completely in panic!
- -You are only scaring her. The black haired looked at him as if he was a little boy exaggerating things. â€"This should be easy on her.
- -Just stop talking okay! I shouted freaked out. It was like a bad dream, a nightmare that I had to wake up from. We were almost the lasts in the entrance and I felt even more scared. I could not be left alone with this people I didn't even know. They could be serial killers!
- -She is having a panic attack. The green eyed man looked at me as he got closer and inspected me; he searched for my eyes to look at him. $\hat{a}\in \text{``Get}$ the hell away from me! I shouted completely taken by my fear.

He looked at me coldly and took a deep breath. -Lucius, go. IÂ'll take Mrs. Galler inside. Mrs. Galler? What was this, the eighteen hundreds or what? The black haired man nodded and made his way

towards the woods and it seemed as if the trees had eaten him up because in an instant he disappeared. The guy of the picture guided me toward the building as I was shaking in fear for being left alone with him. There were still students in the corridors and almost all of them watched us as the strange man lead me toward my class room and the looked at us with curiosity and surprise.

-Are you Gregory? I asked him as he guided me through the people. He was real then, a man that was in a photo of more than a hundred years old was here guiding me through the building and looking as scary as hell.

-Yes. He told me with coldness, almost as if he was a machine. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{R}$ ut is not really safe to talk here, so reserve your interesting speculations for another time. His words made me explode, I suddenly stopped and looked at him with all my fury. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{C}$ Okay I don't know who you think you are, but no one has the right to talk to me like that! He stopped and faced me with such an authority and strength I thought he was going to take my face and smashed it against a locker. We were face to face and I tried to hide how scared of him I really was. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{C}$ You want to know who I am? I am a monster Miss. Don't forget that, ever.

I stared at him in a complete state of panic and I knew he really meant every single word he said. He looked at me deeply in the eyes and his look softened as he looked at the reaction he had caused on me. â€"Come, let me get you to your class. We renew our way as I felt I needed air. I didn't understand anything that was going on and I was starting to pass through the shock, and now I was hyperventilating.

I started to breath as if I was a horse in a race and I felt everything was dancing around me. Gregory turned and looked at me, and I must have been a really mess because he frowned and got closer to me. -Kathleen? Kathleen!? Breathe. We stopped at some stairs and he made me sat on one step. I looked at him even more scared. â€"Get away from me, I don't know you! I said with tears in my eyes. I took my face in my hands trying to calm myself down.

He took one of my hands and retrieve it quickly as if it pained him to even barely touch me. $\hat{a} \in Can$ you please, take away that thing? He asked with a frown and he was looking at the ring I found in the box yesterday.

-Why? I asked as I looked at his reaction. â€"Itâ€| makes me feel uncomfortable. He gulped heavily and didn't kept his eyes away from my hand. He took a deep breath and closed his eyes as he shook his head. â€"In fact keep it on. The damage is already made and it protects you from things like me. He opened his eyes and looked at me with a heavy stare.

I shook my head and rest it in my knees. -I need to get to class, I'm already late. I said as I wanted to get away from him and all of this madness. This had to be a product of my imagination. He frowned and turned his look to the ground but nodded. $\hat{a} \in \text{``You}$ are already here. He pointed the door that was in front of the stairs.

-Howâ \in |? Never mind. I said with a nervous laugh. I got up and passed him as fast as I could and knocked the door. The professor came out and looked at me with a quizzical brow.

-Hi, I'm… ahh Kathleen Galler… I said trying to clear my head. â€"I'm sorry I'm late I'm new here and I couldn't find the classroom. I said trying to control the impulse of turning around and see him again.

-Don't worry. Come in Miss. Galler. A tall and good looking man gave me a warm smile. I could not resist to turn around to say thank you but there was no one sat in the staircase anymore, just the empty halls. I took a deep breath and enter the class room.

-Listen people we have a new student. Please pay attention while she tell us a little bit about herself. Everyone was staring at me, specially a blond, blue eyed girl who was dressed like a top model. She looked at me from head to toes with a disapproval look. I was still so nervous about Gregory that I didn't have the slightest desire to do this right now.

I took a deep breath and got it on with it. â€"Well my name is Kathleen Galler. I was born in Quebec but I had lived most of my life in the United States, in Los Angeles California. I moved here because my father has a new business in this city and, well that's pretty much all.

Most of them smiled at me, some of them just gave me an agreeable look and some others made a disapproval grimace; like the blond girl. I didn't had time for this, seriously. I thought I would passed out at any moment.

-ItÂ's a pleasure Miss Galler now please, take a sit over there. The professor showed me a sit in the center of the room and I sat down pretending to be very confident and acting as if I didn't wanted to run to my van and drive all the way back to L.A.

Mr. Johnson started to give his class and I felt relived. Now I could think about all that had happened that morning. Lucius was the black hair, blue eyed man. He wrote the letter to Gregory saying everything was ready for his departure to London with a woman named Lucy.

This was madness "Should I go with them or just run away? I was never a coward, but I was neither stupid regardless of Gregory's sharp comments. I really didn't know these men" I said to myself "I have to learn to control my curious nature. This is not a game and I believed Gregory when he said he was a monster. They had the power to enter my house and God knows what else!" Gregory was frankly a scary figure, and he was right, I didn't even knew what I was getting myself into.

-Kathleen. The girl beside me called me with a whisperer. She was a red haired and green eyed girl. She had white skin and freckles all aver her white cheeks. She looked thin and graceful. -Hi my name is Ronnie. If you want I could give you all the notes we have done in history and any other class we have together. She smiled at me friendly, finally someone kind and none-threatening in this damned town!

-I´ll be very grateful if you do so, I told her with an absent smile but completely grateful to see her friendly face in that hostile situation. â€"Can I asked you something?

-Of course. She said as she got closer to me and she took a lock of red hair in her hand. -WhoÂ's that girl? I soberly pointed the blond girl who was talking to a robust good looking guy by the arm. She looked at her and then raised her eyebrows with a grin. â€"She, my friend, is the most selfish human being you could ever find in this planet. Her name is Evy.

She most had seen a confused look on my face because she comforted me with a smile. -Donâ't worry is nothing personal. She is the kind of girl that looks miserable no matter how much she tries not to, her green eyes studied me curiously as she said so.

-What´s your next class? She asked curious. She was a simple and charismatic girl. That could be seen from miles away and I always had the six sense of judging people the right way. I gave her my schedule and she looked at it. â€"We have three classes together Literature, History and Math. Hey Zack! She called a dark hair guy who was paying attention to us before she called him. â€"Do you have any of this classes at the same time? She passed him my schedule and he watched it. He looked like the "I don´t care about my aspect cause I know I´m hot anyway" kind of guy. And indeed he was good looking. -Yeah Art. He said as he passed the schedule to me â€"Hi I´m Zack.

-Kathâ€| so we have art together. I said trying to be polite but really freaked out, I just want to go... but then I realized I could not even go home, they would be there too. I was starting to feel asphyxiated! And I didn't like the feeling at all!

He looked at me as if he was studying me but smiled back. $\hat{a} \in \text{``Yes I}$ think so. DonÂ't worry is just one of those classes they put in just to make the program look full. I gave him a forced smile as my head wondered the idea of running away from Brock Town.

-Mr. Callow pay attention to the class please. Said Mr. Johnson. I looked towards Zack and murmured the word "sorry". He nodded and the three of us returned to the class and I thanked this time to digest all this madness.

-You can join us at lunch time. Our table is big and we have some interesting friends. Sure youÂ'll like them. Said Ronnie with her graceful walk.

-Is she always this nice and friendship? I asked Zack looking at him as if Ronnie was a glass of freezing water in the middle of the desert. -Not really. Well guess I never had the opportunity to watch her with new people, but with her friendsâ€| yes she is nice and gentle. He said with a grin. Ronnie blushed with a little smile as she looked at the ground flattered.

â€"Well I have to go. See you later and nice to meet you Kath. -Nice to meet you too Zack! He turned toward his next class and Ronnie and I kept on our way to our Math class. Evy passed right beside Ronnie and looked at me raising an eyebrow as she passed by.

-What the hell is wrong with that girl!? I asked Ronnie as we looked at her walking as if she was a goddess.-The only good thing about that girl are her cousins, the Browtons! She said soberly. My blood just got frozen by her words. â€"Browtons? I asked with shock and opened my eyes widely.

-Yeah Gregory and Lucius, they are the most handsome brothers in the whole world, a little intimidating but they are just gorgeous! She said almost with dreamy eyes.

Brothers? That wasn´t what the note said. â€" How you know them? She looked at me with dreamy eyes. -Because of my father, his in charge of most of the banks in this side of the country. I meet them at his office and Evy was with them. In fact they were related to John Browton, he passed away recently.

-Yes, I live in his house. I said as I looked at her confused as hell. She opened her eyes and smiled. â€"What a coincidence! This world is smaller than we think. But why didn't John left the house to his nephews? I mean it they were his only relatives.

I took a deep breath as I stared to get a headache. â€" I really don't know. Well If you asked me I don´t want to be involved in anything that has to do with her or those guys. I said with maybe with too much anger for a normal conversation of two people I didn't even know.

-We shall see… her expression was sarcastic and fun. â€"Come on, our fun class of Math is waiting for us! Her sarcastic tone was very funny and for a while she made me feel like a normal teen ager.

The hours passed slowly and my head ached of the thousands of ideas running through my mind, and as hard as I wished to I could not stop time. At a certain moment the bell rang and everyone went out the classroom. "Shit" I thought, it was time to face my fears again. From my seat no one was waiting for me at the door, maybe they didn´t found me after all, or indeed I was crazy and I imagined it all. I took a deep breath and tried to lower my levels of anxiety as I took my books and went out as if I was a mouse waiting to find a cat outside the safety of my burrow.

"Shit", both of them were standing beside each side of the door, like some kind of stone guards watching everyone come and go.-Just live me alone. I said as I grimaced and tried to ignore them. I came to the conclusion that they had to be a fruit of my imagination. This simply could not have a logic explanation.

-Kathleen we need to talk. Lucius gave me a sad smile and looked at me patiently. He was all dressed in black and his blue eyes looked at me with a mix of compassion and seriousness. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ can't go with you. I said taking a deep breath and closing my eyes.

-You are coming with us. Gregory took my arm and let me go again as if my skin burned him. He looked at me with rage and took my hand again and guided me towards the corridors while Lucius gave him a negative look. Suddenly it started to smell like if something was being cooked and I looked at his hand and my touch was burning him, literally!

-Let go of me! I said furious but more disturb by whatever I was doing to him. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N} \hat{A}$ m not going with you anywhere you are supposed to be dead! You must me dead, let go of me!

His eyes turned even colder than they were normally and I could see how he clenched his jaw. Lucius intervened â€"We don´t want to harm

you I swear, if this is too much for you we are not going to force you into anything, but I think at the end of the day you would like an explanation of what is going on.

I looked at the dark haired man and I saw he wasn't lying and that he was right. At the end of the day I had to have a decent explanation of what was going on around me.

-Thanks Lucius. I sad looking at Gregory with indignation. I took a deep breath and in a moment of "zero judgment" I said. â€"I want to have many people around if necessary. Can we talk here at school? Gregory shook his head and clenched his jaw. â€"We can't talk this in public! Gregory looked around as if he felt uncovered.

-Seems fair Gregory. This last one took a deep breath and much to my surprise he nodded reluctantly. Lucius smiled and led us towards a very solitary corridor where there was a janitor's locker. Gregory opened the door and he was hardly clenching his jaw in a clear sign of anger and distress.

There where brooms, mops, buckets and a light bulb hanging from the ceiling decadently. -Here is safer to talk. Said Lucius inspecting the little room as if from the shelf where the Windex was there could be someone pointing us with a gun.

Thousands of thoughts and voices in my head screamed at me that this was a madness and a really bad idea, but I took a deep breath and got on with it. -I listen. I chose an old box that was in the floor as a chair and I crossed my arms faking confidence and raising an eyebrow.

â€"You are right, we should have died a long time ago. Gregory stared with cold voice and staring at the floor. His statement gave me chills. â€"What I'm about to tell you must never leave this room. I looked at him with big eyes -Promise me. He then look at me straight in the eyes and his stare was heavy. I nodded with some resistance begging that with that he could stop staring at me. â€"Say it.

-I promise. I said with trembling voice and staring at them in disbelieve. I felt as if I was in the middle of a "Cosa Nostra" kind of situation. Gregory started at me deeply for what seemed ages and it was as if his eyes could pass right though me. It made me feel really uncomfortable.

- My name is Gregory Browton, I was born in London in 1839. I looked at him in disbelieve, he was more than 170 years old! He looked at my expression and a little smile of satisfaction appeared in his hard features. -My grandfather was the one who build the house in which you are living now. I had two siblings, an older brother Adam and a younger sister Lucy. Adam was five years older than me and my sister was two years younger. Now I understood what relationship he had with the woman of the letter. I looked at him focusing my entire attention in what he was about to say.

A huge silent was made and he wasn't looking at me, his eyes were looking at something in the floor and his expression was ice cold. â€"And your parents? I asked the first thing that came into my mind to make him keep on with his story. This seemed to get him out of his deep thoughts because he turned and looked at me a little disorientated. -My mother died when I was fourteen years old, he said

in a complete neutral tone. -And after that Charles, my father, decided to move to Canada because my grandfather needed help with the state and the family business. We were important merchants and owners of lands in Great Brittan and America, including this state in Brock Town, which was an important merchant point.

- -My grandfather was sick and my father then decided he wanted to be responsible for the state he would soon inherited. Adam, my older brother, decided to stay at London and look up for the business my father had in England, for as it happened with my grandfather and Charles, soon my brother would be the heir of most of my father's inheritance.
- I was 17 when we finally settle down here. My grandfather died days after we arrived and he left us the home and all his fortune. Time passed and I found a new home in Brock Town. Here my life was so incredibly easy. I was rich, young and full of dreams, probably the best days of my life.
- I meet Lucius Featon, we made each other good friends almost immediately when I arrived Brock Town. I figured out I wanted to be a doctor and Lucian was going to study to become a lawyer. Gregory looked at Lucius with a cynical smile. â€"But let's just say that, that wasn´t our destiny. He said with a twisted smile and almost laughed out loud.
- -Three years after I got here strange disappearances and deaths were starting to happen in Town. Most of them where convenient deaths to the Mayor of Brock Town back then, a filthy rat that cared only for himself. He had many enemies and people that owned him a lot of money. They were the first to appear deaths in the woods.
- It was a small town so the chaos was quickly expanded when such brutal murderers happened almost daily. In the middle of the growing chaos I told my father we had to get out of there; that sooner or later they would come for us. We had money and father didn't hesitated in expressing his ideas about the pig we had as a Mayor. But, as always, it was in his nature to think I was wrong. He said he could never leave his new state and that he had worked hard to gain a future for his family, he would not be a coward as I was to his eyes, Gregory said with a cynic smile again.
- -Everyone in town suspected that Anthony, the mayor, was behind this but no one had the courage or the means to face him. Wise people, he said suddenly clenching his jaw and his eyes sparked with something I could not describe. â€"I went to his office and confronted him with Lucius, a day after the daughter of Mr. Tronestone, a good friend of the family and an important business associated of us, was missing. Mr. Tronestone didn't wanted to pay the mayor the protection fee he was now imposing in Brock Town to keep us safe. Of course that stupid fee was an extortion and he knew it.
- -Anyway, I told the mayor I was going to expose him, and if it was necessary I'll killed him if he did not stopped the deaths and got away from Brock Town for ever. It was probably the stupidest thing I've ever done. He laughed but there was not a single sign of amusement in his smile.

 $\hat{a} \in \text{``I decided}$ that if father didn't wanted to leave then I would take Lucy and we would go back to London with Adam. I had been in contact

with him and told him everything that was going on in Brock Town. He said he was now making business of his own and that if father took us away his support, he would be able to help me finish my studies and together we would give Lucy everything we could. We had everything planned. It was November the third of 1859. Lucius and I were 20 years old.

- -Yeah and life was good. Lucius said with a sad smile $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ That night we stayed awake late and we were planning his escape with Lucy, I would go with my family to New York and from there I would make some money to go to England. His father and Lucy were already slept upstairs and we drinking and preparing every detail for his departure.
- -A weird sound came from outside, as if a woman was yelling desperately for help. We got out alarmed and completely confused to see what the hell was happening. It was all dark and full of mist, he said now lost in his memories. His tone was heavier now, darker and full of grieve. The forest was†different. No actually we were the ones who were different, we were like out of ourselves in the moment we stepped outside the Browton's house. This _creatures_ have the power to create you hallucinations, well at least when you are a human. We stood there like frozen statues outside the house and in front of the forest, if you asked me it was the worst experience I've ever had as a human.
- Anthony payed the Ailechs to take Gregory and me out of the way. I stared at him horrified and deeply confused. â€"Ailechs? I asked as I haven't the slightest idea of what it meant. That's how they are called, or at least they call themselves that way, and we were now facing the fate of his enemies.

I was completely taken by the story. Ailechs? What the hell was an Ailech? He said they have the power to create hallucinations… Where they like vampires or werewolves or something like that?

At this Gregory laughed out loud and shook his head. As if he knew exactly what I was thinking and thought it hilarious and completely innocent form my part. But his reaction to my thoughts gave me a clear clue of how this story ended and made me clasp my hands in two tight fist nervously.

- -Five black shadows appeared in front of us and we were completely petrified as suddenly everything turned black, continued Lucius. â€"It was as if they had knocked us down, and now we were prisoners of the creature that had killed many of the people in town and our friends. There was no doubt right then that we were not going to survive that night, and probably we would end up with our hearts taken out of our chest like the victims before us. Hearing this made me want to vomit, how could someone do something like that? But I tried to breath and control my instincts as this was far from over.
- -That night there were four other people captured with us, when he said this he made of his hands two tight fists. They were a man, a boy, and two women.
- -We were conscious of what was happening around us but it was as if we were out of our bodies, we were just spectators in our own deaths. Lucius turned to look at Gregory as if he didn't knew how to proceed.

Gregory looked at me and crossed his arms over his chest. –Okay enough of the explicit version. We don´t have time for it. Long story short, we got cursed that night and we are bounded to an eternal existence, we live close your house, which is actually _my_ house. We are not human, we are Ailechs. The letters you found were not of your business and that´s why there are in my power now. The box was of Lucy and so as the ring you are wearing. The end.

Lucius rolled his eyes at Gregory and passed his hand through his hair exasperated. I stared at him in disbelieve. -What?! Are you serious? He didn't answer just stared at me as if he was made out of stone. -I mean you started with an almost a decent explanation and now you are just going to live me in the middle of it? I wanted to punch him in the face right there.

â€"First you made me believe I was getting crazy when you scared me in _my house, _then I discovered a box with some letters and a photo of youâ€| I said to Gregory in a derogatory way as I felt a verbal vomit coming out of me. â€"Then you stalk me and bring me here against my will to explain me what the hell is going on and after that you son of a bâ€|But Gregory interrupted me â€"Be careful.

-Don´t tell me to be careful! Do you have any idea of how scared I have been? I asked terrified. Now he seemed serious and looked at me straight in the eyes. -I´m a dangerous creature, you have to fear me. He said with a cold voice but a strange softness in his eyes.

-Or what you are going to pull my heart out of my chest!?I thought it and said it at the exact same moment. I felt as if my blood went completely to my knees when I realized that if all of this was truth, he certainly could. - IÂ'm out of this and you both are completely out of your minds! I tried to get out but the hand of Gregory got my arm with a frown. His skin was burning and with a strong move he pushed me toward a wall and he put himself in front of me.

-You can´t escape now. They know you are here, he said completely serious. His closeness was overwhelming. We looked at each other for what seemed ages. -What?! What are you talking about?! I was trembling and my hands were sweating. Noticing my reaction he softened his expression just a bit. -Stop Greg, You have gone too far. I´ll handle it from now on, Lucius said seriously and took him by the shoulder.

-Don't give me orders Lucius. He never took his eyes away from me and now I knew more than ever that, whatever he was, he was a deathly creature. - I can handle this. He said with anger but with a strong attempt to control his temper. -Enough! He pushed Gregory towards him to face him calmly, but Lucius was still taking him firmly by the shoulder. Gregory's eyes seemed on fire when he faced Lucius. â€"You _need_ to calm down. Gregory looked at him with the same intensity but got away from us and went to the other corner of the room as he put both hands in the shelf and let his head fall.

Lucius offered me his hand. â€"Kath, the Ailechs are coming. The ring was given to Lucy by one of them. It's a kind of protection towards our kind, but also is a really important ring, a human can wear it only when it is given to her or him by an Ailech.

-You gave it to me? I asked confused and looked at both of them in disbelieve. -Of course not! It'll be stupid to give them a sign we are here. I don't know how the hell it got there. Said Gregory furious and confused from the other side of the small room, it seemed he didn't like the feeling.

-They are searching for you? He took a deep breath and nodded. â€"A part of the story I omitted. He said with another cynic smile and taking deep breaths. -And what if they know IÂ'm here? I asked as I feared the answer, I could just give them back their precious jewel. -They will come after us. The ring got lost when Lucy died, they know that if the ring still exists is in my possession. Said Gregory looking at me right in the eyes.

-And if that's so, how can you expect me to believe you didn't gave me this? I said showing the ring and facing him. -Because that's not even convenient, by any means, for me! I could tell he wasn't lying. He could be many things but I didn't see lie in his eyes. It was a really stupid idea actually because I didn't even knew what he was.

-Okay let me see what I get. You both are more than a hundred years old. Lucy was your sister and she receiver this ring from an $A\hat{a}\in G$ Gregory smiled at me and said $\hat{a}\in A$ Luch. -Yeah that thing. When I wear the ring this creatures that have special powers knew you both were here and now they are coming for you. The letters are in your power now and $\hat{a}\in A$ In missing something? I asked with a cynical tone as my head was spinning around.

-Mmmâ \in | it´s pretty much all. Said Lucius with a smile. -Right and you both guys think I´m crazy and stupid; this must be a very bad joke. There is no way I´mâ \in | Gregory rolled his eyes and suddenly took his shirt off. I turned away as I got a glimpse of a worked out torso. â \in "What the hell? I asked as he started to get naked.

Suddenly I heard him hit the ground and I could not believe my eyes when I turned and saw him. In the blink of an eye his body was twisting violently and his muscles where moving under his skin. I screamed sacred and closed my eyes in an attempt to pretend this was not happening. There was a huge silent and I was trembling in fear. I felt as if a huge creature had exhale inches away from my face, I felt my hair move away from my face because of it. Taking every inch of bravery in my body I opened my eyes and found something I could barely believe.

His physiognomy was broad and impressive, his look was penetrating and wild and had the same emerald eyes that where looking at me seconds before, but now they were in the body of a huge jaguar that was just inches away from me. I shook my head in disbelieve, this was simply impossible. The jaguars' hair was soft and of a creamy golden color, his spots were as dark as carbon and his snout was of an impeccable white color. He looked at me as if I was a snack.

I just stared at him in a complete state of shock and did not move a muscle. "What the hell have I got myself into?" This was a complete madness, I just saw a man turn into an animal? Officially I was crazy, I had lost myself at some point and there was no going back.

He closed his face towards mine and this was, without exaggerating, 3 or 4 time mine. His look was serious and completely cold as I noticed he was no ordinary jaguar, he had the size of an adult tiger.

I closed my eyes trembling and just waiting to black out. Watching him turned into this animal and then having him so close to me was as scary as hell. â€"Please, please Gregory stop! I shouted as I finally found my voice. He moved his face toward mine and I put myself as far away as the wall let me, he got even closer and I felt his soft cheek against my forehead; his hair was soft and smooth and I got the smell of the forest in his skin.

Suddenly I didn't felt him anymore. I heard the animal growl a little and then silence. I opened my eyes to find he was himself again and was putting on his shirt, he was looking at me as if he was studying me.

-You are safe Kathleen, said Lucius as he got closer to us. -I guarantee you that I fell everything but safe! I said with just a whisper as I tried not to panic. I kept quiet for a long time just trying to get my mind in place. A jaguar†a huge and threatening jaguar was just inches away from me moments ago. And that animal was Gregory Browton, a man that should have died more than a hundred years ago.

I seriously wanted to cry, this was all madness and this could seriously not be happening to me. $\hat{a} \in \text{``You}$ can turn into animals? I asked not looking at them. Suddenly the floor was far more interesting and made it easier for me to breath.

-The Ailechs have the ability to change form to one animal in particular. Each family has their own animal. I am a bear, Gregory is a jaguar, but there are wolves, snakes, birds... well almost every animal.

Gregory haven't said a words, he just stared at me deeply and made no moves. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ Is there anything more I should know? Now my hands where trembling as I tried as hard as I could not to run away from there crying and get myself into a mental clinic.

- -No, that's all. Said Gregory with a deep voice as he kept a close eye on me. Of course there were things they were not telling me. What happened that night at the woods? What happened to Adam and Lucy? How does all this works? I mean what else can they do? What the hell were they been doing one hundred and seventy something years over this earth?
- -Kathleen? Asked Gregory getting closer to me as I noticed now I was breathing hardly and tears started to blur my sight. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ it permanent? I asked staring at nothing as I tried to gain control of myself again. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ I mean being an Ailech.
- -Yes. Said Lucian with a sad smile and trying to make it sound as if it wasn't that bad. -I need to get out…if you please. I still didn´t want to look at any of them in the eyes. This was way too much for me and I needed to get away from them as fast as my legs allowed me.
- -Are you all right? Asked Gregory getting closer to me. â€"No! I said as I put a hand between him and me, he frowned but stood where he

- was. -I don´t know. Is not that you have chosen the sweetest way to tell me something like this. This past days had been a torment. I said with tears in my cheeks. I hated that someone see me crying but this time I just couldn´t help it. This was just way too muchâ \in |
- -I am sorry… I said in the middle of a sob. I was really impress when Gregory got closer to me and took my hand. -No! I don't want to hurt you. I said still crying like a little girl and getting away from him.
- -Calm down Kathleen. Said Gregory with soft voice, nothing to do with the man I've just met. - I know is difficult to believe and you have taken this pretty easy believe me.
- -She´s not feeling good. I think we should take her to the nurse. Said Lucius as he inspected me as well. -No! I´ll be fine. Just give me a little bit of more time. I said with panic in my voice. I just wanted to go home and get away from them, as far and fast as I could. After three or four minutes I felt strong enough to look at them again. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{N}$ I'm okay now. I lied.

Gregory frowned and inspected me. He took a deep breath and then turned his eyes away from me. â€"Lucius go. I'll handle it from here. I looked at him with big eyes begging him with the eyes not to leave, but he nodded and started to make his way out.

- -No please, just â€|don't leave. Lucius seemed to be the only one that Gregory listen too. He turned to look at Gregory while he was in the door as if asking him to reconsider, but Gregory dismissed him with a movement of his hand.
- -Don't worry I'll be leaving soon too. I have something important to do, but first I want to make sure you are okay. He got closer to me and I felt he could see right through me. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{T}$ be honest I am not. This is impossible.
- -IÂ'm sorry I can't explain as much as you want to know, but I think I have told you even more than it concerns you. And now you know what you are getting yourself into. He said seriously and looking at me in the eyes.
- -I didn't get myself into anything! I yelled angry, he really got me out of my nerve. -You were the ones that invaded my home and made me think I was crazy or that the house was haunted or something.

He passed his hand though his hair exasperated. â€"I apologize for it even if the things that scared you were not made intentionally. I wanted you to leave the house, but what happened was just another Ailech thing. When we are around some places, our energy is to strong that things like strange noises or objects moving start to happen, for us quite normal, he said coldly.

- -And those strange figures? They were Lucius and you, right? I asked as I looked at him apprehensively. He took a deep breath and nodded. $\hat{a}\in$ " Is my house. He said clenching his jaw and not looking at me. $\hat{a}\in$ "And I wanted you out.
- -You, _wanted_? I asked confused, this man was a complete mystery to me. His manners simply didn't exist, but then he had flashes of softness and I knew without knowing the complete story he ended up

pretty damaged. â€"You have the ring now. Lucian and I can´t touch it. That´s why we couldn´t take it away from you like the letters, unfortunately you are in this with us now.

-Yes unfortunately, I said hurt by his worlds but not wanting him to know they affected me at all. -Can't I just take this off? I took the ring and pulled it out of my finger. He looked at me gave me a soft smile as he got closer to me.â€"It does not work like that Kathleen, if the ring hasn't _left_ you already I am afraid is not that easy. Beside the Aielchs already know we are here, they will come and is safer if you have it on, some consider an offence that a human wears this kind of jewels. Believe me, you are safer with it on and with us near.

-_Left_ me? What exactly happened that night Gregory? I asked firmly as I tried to understand all this madness. - Let me take you to your van. He said as he opened the door and cynically evaded my question.

I nodded rolling my eyes and we both got out the little room as I felt I was a completely different person than the one that got in there.

End file.